

**North Carolina Department of Transportation  
PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION FORM  
STIP No. R-2603**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- a. Consultation Phase: Right-of-Way Consultation
- b. Project Description: Wilkesboro, Multi-lanes East of NC 18 to SR 1966 (Airport Road). Widen to Multi-lanes in Wilkes County
- c. WBS No.: WBS No. 36001.1.2  
Federal Project: STP-0268(15)
- d. Document Type: Environmental Assessment 1/2011  
FONSI 2/2012

II. CONCLUSIONS

The above environmental document has been reevaluated as required by 23 CFR 771. It was determined that the current proposed action is essentially the same as the original proposed action. Proposed changes, if any, are noted below in Section III. It has been determined that anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts were accurately described in the above referenced document(s) unless noted otherwise herein. Additional information will be written in *Italics* for clarification. Therefore, the original Administration Action remains valid.

III. CHANGES IN PROPOSED ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

There are no changes in potential environmental effects from those presented in the (FONSI). The attached memorandum dated November 16, 2012 addresses water resources and the protected species potentially impacted by the project and updates the referenced FONSI.

NCDOT will coordinate with NCDWQ prior to permitting to determine if implementing Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds is applicable to this project give the types and classifications of the water resources present within the project area.

IV. LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

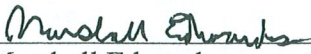
NCDOT will implement all practical measures and procedures to minimize and avoid environmental impacts. See the attached Project Commitments, Green Sheet for the environmental commitments developed during the project.

V. COORDINATION


PDEA personnel have discussed current project proposals with others as follows:

Roadway Design Engineer:	Tatia White	Date	11/26/12
Structures Design Engineer	Quang H. Nguyen	Date	11/26/12
Hydraulics Engineer	Marshall Clawson	Date	10/13/12
Environmental Specialist	Erin Cheely	Date	11/16/12
Program Development	Sheila Elliot	Date	11/27/12

VI. NCDOT CONCURRENCE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marshall Edwards  
NCDOT-PDEA-Western Region

12-4-12  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacy Oberhausen, PE  
NCDOT-PDEA-Western Region

12/04/2012  
Date

VII. FHWA CONCURRENCE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Batuzich  
FHWA Preconstruction & Environmental Specialists

12-4-12  
Date

Wilkes County  
NC 268 (Elkin Highway)  
Widen to Multi-Lanes East of NC 18 to SR 1966 (Airport Road)  
Federal Project No. STP-0268(15)  
State Project No. 8.2001501  
WBS No. 36001.1.1.2  
**STIP PROJECT No. R-2603**

**PROJECT COMMITMENTS**

Current status, changes, or additions to the Project Commitments as shown in the environmental document for the project are printed in *italics*.

**Roadway Design Unit, Hydraulic Design and Division 11:**

Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds will be adhered to for sediment and erosion control procedures.

The Roadway Design Unit will coordinate with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to determine the status of the potential WRC public access project at the NC 268 crossing of Mulberry Creek.

**Action:**

*North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission determined it is not feasible to establish public access at the NC 268 crossing of Mulberry Creek.*

**Hydraulic Design:**

The Hydraulics Unit will coordinate with the NC Floodplain Mapping Program (FMP), the delegated state agency for administering FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, to determine the status of the project with regard to applicability of NCDOT'S Memorandum of Agreement with FMP (dated 6/5/08), or approval of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) and subsequent final Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

**Division 11**

This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to FEMA-regulated stream(s). Therefore, the Division shall submit sealed as-built construction plans to the Hydraulics Unit upon completion of project construction, certifying that the drainage structure(s) and roadway embankment that are located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically.

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission has requested an in-water work moratorium from May 1 to July 15 for Mulberry Creek and its unnamed tributary to prevent off site sedimentation from impacting smallmouth bass fish eggs and fry downstream. NCDOT will determine if it is feasible to adhere to this moratorium during construction.

**Action:**

*NCDOT will coordinate with NCDWQ prior to permitting to determine if implementing Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds is applicable to this project given the types and classifications of the water resources present within the project area.*

*NCDOT will determine if it is feasible to adhere to this moratorium during the permitting phase of the project.*

### **Structures**

Bicycle safe bridge railing will be provided on the NC 268 eastbound bridge over Mulberry Creek.

### **Roadway Design, Program Development**

The construction of sidewalks in the proposed project will be dependent upon a cost-sharing and maintenance agreement between NCDOT and the Town of North Wilkesboro.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.  
SECRETARY

November 16, 2012

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Marshall Edwards, Project Planning Engineer  
Project Development Section

**FROM:** Erin Cheely, Environmental Specialist  
Natural Environment Section, Project Management Group

**SUBJECT:** Water resources and protected species review for a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Right of Way Consultation for the widening of and improvements to NC 268 from NC 18 to SR 1966 (Airport Road) in Wilkes County. Federal Project No. STP-0268(15), WBS No. 36001.1.2, Division 11, TIP No. R-2603.

**REFERENCE:** Environmental Assessment (EA), January 2011  
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), February 2012

Water classifications within the project area have not changed since the 2011 EA and 2012 FONSI. Long Creek is still listed on the 2012 Final 303(d) list of impaired waters for "Ecological/biological Integrity Benthos".

As of September 22, 2010, the USFWS lists one federally protected species for Wilkes County, the bog turtle. The biological conclusion for this species remains "No Effect" due to lack of suitable habitat.

**GREENSHEET COMMITMENTS**

The commitment regarding Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds may or may not be applicable to this project pending further coordination with the NC Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ). The following can be written below this commitment for clarification:

*NCDOT will coordinate with NCDWQ prior to permitting to determine if implementing Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds is applicable to this project given the types and classifications of the water resources present within the project area.*

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LOCATION:  
1020 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE  
RALEIGH NC, 27610

The condition regarding the smallmouth moratorium requested by NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) along with the clarification in italics indicating that this may not be applicable can remain on the greensheet until NCDOT resolves this issue with NCWRC.

cc: R-2603 file